

# News Release

## *National Wildlife Refuge System*



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### **ARTHUR R. MARSHALL, LOXAHATCHEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

#### **Refuge Continues L-40 Levee Closure**

A section of the L-40 Levee just two miles north of the Hillsboro Area entrance at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge will remain closed to public access through the end of September. The reason for the continued closure is because the contractor working for the South Florida Water Management District is behind schedule replacing the G-94A culvert. Refuge visitors wanting to hike and bike the L-40 Levee will be able to enter at Lee Road and only travel 4.3 miles south before they will have to turn around. Likewise, refuge visitors wanting to hike or bike the L-40 Levee entering at the Hillsboro Area entrance (Loxahatchee Road) will be able to travel for approximately two miles north before they will have to turn around. For more information call the Visitor Center at (561) 734-8303 or visit our web site at [Loxahatchee.fws.gov](http://Loxahatchee.fws.gov). Again, there will be no through access from Lee Road to Loxahatchee Road. Hikers and bikers are also asked to watch for and yield to construction vehicles and equipment during this time.

The refuge is located off U.S. 441/SR 7, two miles south of SR 804 (Boynton Beach Blvd) and three miles north of SR 806 (Delray Beach's Atlantic Avenue). The refuge is currently open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., seven days a week. Refuge hours change seasonally and are posted at each entrance. The Visitor Center hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from Wednesday through Friday and from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekends and holidays. The Visitor Center is closed on Christmas Day. An entrance fee of \$5.00 per vehicle or \$1.00 per pedestrian is charged. A variety of annual passes, including a \$12.00 refuge specific annual pass, are available.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 94-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System comprised of 538 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands, and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fish and wildlife management offices, and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws,

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administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

The Centennial of the National Wildlife Refuge System in 2003 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the world's largest network of lands and waters set aside to protect wildlife. From its beginnings at Florida's tiny Pelican Island, the Refuge System has grown to encompass hundreds of unique, spectacular and truly wild places that harbor diverse species and welcome more than 35 million visitors each year. To learn more, point your browser to <http://refuges100.fws.gov>.